



Y2K MILLENNIUM DANCE PARTIES & MORE

WIA (Women In the Arts, Inc.) Dec. 31 presents a dinner & dance at The Garrison at Fort Harrison, Indianapolis 7:00PM to ? Call 317-927-9355 for more information

Ruthellen's.....in Indianapolis...Dec. 31...Dance Party 825 N. Pennsylvania St. 317-631-RUTH

In Chicago...Non Stop Dance Party beginning at 9:00PM Event Info Line 312-409-1974 or www.gay-y2k.com

STARZ Bar, 1505 S. Kendall, South Bend...Dec. 30 Final Competition For Entertainer of the Millennium Contest for info...219-288-7827

The mother of Matthew Shepard, the gay college student who was beaten and left for dead launched a public service announcement that began airing on MTV in October. In the announcement high school boys in a locker room shout anti-gay insults. Judy Shepard says, "The next time you use words like these, think about what they really mean." A photo of her son flashes on the screen with the dates 1976-1998. Then the words "Murdered" and "Hate" are followed by a shot of Mrs. Shepard with her head bowed. "Please don't let there be a next time."

Russell Henderson, 21 and Aaron McKinney, 22 have been sentenced to life in prison.

Our Holiday wish for you from the Staff of Open Arms



We wish you.... Happiness.... Deep down within
Serenity..... With each sunrise
Success..... In each facet of your life
Close and caring friends
Love..... That never ends
Knowledge of the grace and love of God.
Special memories..... Of all the yesterdays
A bright today..... With much to be thankful for
A path..... That leads to beautiful tomorrows
Dreams..... That do their best to come true
And appreciation.. Of all the wonderful things about you!

Groundbreaking study on woman to woman sexual violence launched



Dr. Lori B. Girshick, sociologist and activist, has begun a nationwide study aimed at lesbians, bisexual women and transgendered/transsexual women. A focus of Dr. Girshick's work is to understand what labels women use who are sexually assaulted by their female partners or dates. Do they call the violence sexual assault, sexual coercion, or rape? The words women use to describe their experience influence the actions they take to deal with their abuse. Flyers about the study have been sent to thousands of agencies, community centers, therapists, and others across the country. This work will contribute to the development of outreach efforts and support services of rape crisis centers and domestic violence agencies, and will help therapists and others who work with survivors of sexual violence. Women interested in participating can request a copy of the questionnaire by calling 828-298-3325 ext. 376. Or write to Lori B. Girshick, Ph.D., WWC-6124, P.O. Box 9000, Asheville, NC 28815-9000 e-mail: lgirshic@warren-wilson.edu

Your participation is confidential.

This work will contribute to the development of outreach efforts and support services of rape crisis centers and domestic violence agencies, and will help therapists and others who work with survivors of sexual violence. Dr. Girshick teaches sociology and women's studies at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, NC. She has worked with battered women for nine years, including battered lesbians. Lori has written two books; her latest, *No Safe Haven: Stories of Women In Prison*. She is a rape survivor, who is dedicated to social justice and works to stop interpersonal violence.

Helen's Rule of the Two-Year-Old



- (1) They will never tell you they have to go to the bathroom....
- (2) until after you have dressed them in boots, mittens, coat, snow pants, scarf and hat. (3) By the time you undress them, it's too late. (4) If it's not too late, it was a false alarm. (5) If it was a false alarm the first time, it won't be a false alarm once you get them dressed again.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Are you interested in being part of a drumming group and learning African rhythms? Call Melinda 219-287-6513

INDIGO GIRLS...December 7, 7:30PM at the Murat Theater, Indy 317-239-5151 or December 9, 7:30PM at the IU Auditorium, Bloomington, 812-333-9955 or all Ticketmaster outlets or online at www.ticketmaster.com

Barnes & Noble's Gay & Lesbian Reading Group meets on the 4th Wednesday , 8:30 P.M. For info call 219-277-9482

CODEPENDENCE ANONYMOUS meetings will begin on Saturdays 9:30 AM at the Southside Christian Church. It is not Church Affiliated. We are just using the church as a meeting place. For more info call Lynn at 259-6801

WOMEN'S AA MEETING will be held on Thursdays at Southside Christian Church at 7:00 p.m. For more information contact Loretta H. at 256-1183.

MICHIANA'S GAY YOUTH GROUP... for GLBT youth under 20 years of age, continues to offer to the youth community a positive and educational perspective on health issues, relationships with their families, coming out issues and history of the community. The support group will continue with the same (IYG) guidelines that have been used over the past eight years in a peer group setting. For more information call 219-235-9396 All calls are confidential.

THE TREVOR HOTLINE National toll-free suicide hotline for gay and questioning youth. It's open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Teens can call 1-800-850-8078, where they can talk to trained counselors. Visit www.trevorproject.com

THE LGBT SWITCHBOARD is a non-profit organization that provides assistance and/or referral to the LGBT community in Bloomington, IN as well as surrounding areas. The phone line is answered daily between 6 PM -12AM by professionally trained volunteers who direct callers to various professionals &/or agencies for assistance. 812-336-7660 or 1-888-882-5428(LGBT)

THE SWITCHBOARD... takes calls every night from 7-11PM 317-251-7955 Callers can discuss issues such as coming out, trans-gender, marriage and other topics. All calls are confidential. Also on the at www.gayindy.org/switchboard/

GAY & LESBIAN HELPLINE/PEER LISTENING LINE The peer listening line is a nationwide toll free number staffed by GLBT youth who provide information, referrals, and support to callers Monday thru Friday 4PM-10PM EST 1-888-340-GLBT (4528). The gay & lesbian helpline does the same work Monday - Friday 6PM-11PM, Sat. & Sun. 5PM-10PM EST 1-800-399-PEER (7337)

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN (NOW) Meetings are open to the public and will be the 4th Wed. from 7 - 9PM of each month , Lower Level...St. Joseph Cty Public Library, 304 S. Main, S. Bend, more info: Penny 291-2342, Rhoda 288-7123

KALAMAZOO GAY/LESBIAN RESOURCE CENTER, C.A.R.E.S Building, Lower Level
629 Pioneer Street, Kalamazoo, Mich. 49001 voice mail: (616) 349-4234

LESBIAN GROWTH & SUPPORT GROUP Fort Wayne Woman's Bureau at 3521 Lake Ave. Suite 1, Info....219-424-7977
Also in Fort Wayne...**G/L/Bi/T Helpline** 219-744-1199 available Mon.-Thurs., 7-10 PM, Fri.-Sat, 7-12 AM, Sun, 8-9 PM

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP Every Tuesday 7-9 PM For Info, write: LSG, P.O. BOX 1612, MISHAWAKA, IND. 46544

BLOOMINGTON OUTREACH, informal support group for lesbian & bisexual women 812-855-3849

NORTH/CENTRAL ALLIANCE Located in the Kokomo, Tipton, Logansport, Marion and Frankfort area of North/Central Indiana....North/Central Alliance, P.O. Box 186, Kokomo, IN. 46903.. Voice Mail 317-454-8868

PFLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Meetings are from 2 to 4 PM the 4th Sunday of the month at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 17195 Cleveland Road, South Bend. Info....Nancy 219-277-2684, or write P.O. Box 4195, S. Bend, 46634

PFLAG in the St. Joseph/Berrien County area, group meetings take place the 3rd Wed. of each month. Info...call 616-429-2957

PFLAG in Fort Wayne meets every 2nd Monday at Plymouth Congregational Church, 501 W. Berry St, Info...Jackie, 219-486-2201

SAPPHOS NETWORK A support/study/social group for N. Cent. IN, P.O. Box 118, Kewanna, IN 46939 219-595-7542

Weekly Event..... Sundays, 9:30 AM, All womyn are welcome to join in a breakfast at the Perkins Restaurant (I-94 & Sprinkle Road) Kalamazoo more info 616-324-8688

Kalamazoo Phoenix Christian Church 6 PM Sky Ridge Church, Drake Road. Sunday School 4:30 PM
Rev. Janice Springer, Pastor more info 616-381-3222

The Amazon Trail
by Lee Lynch



ALL DYKES ARE JOCKS

One of the myths that seems to enshroud lesbians is the myth of the jock. All girl jocks are dykes; all dykes are jocks.

I don't think so.

I will admit that I check out girl athletes, but that's just an old validation-hungry habit. For the most part straight girls seem to be as well-coordinated and competitive as lesbian superwomen. It's hard to tell which came first, the chick or the egg. Was I, for example, drawn to athletics because I identified with strong women or because I am one? The truth is I was never exactly an overachiever in the sports field and as a kid didn't know there was such an animal as a woman athlete except maybe for Esther Williams.

In junior high I almost became a champ for a day. I loved to run and was fast enough to win the tryouts for our field day. Problem one: I didn't know squat and ran smack into a wall, decimating some ligaments in my right ankle. Problem two: I lied that I was recovered so I could compete. Problem three: how could I know they'd use a starting gun?

After I jumped out of my skin I noticed the other runners had taken off without me. I got the message, but not the medal. My team later won the relay race and I have an arthritic ankle. These days clumps of sweaty girls, lone women and female-male couples jog through the streets like it's not aberrant behavior. I read stories of greats like Rebecca Lobo and Sophie Witherspoon. Title IX seems to have freed the caged athlete in Everywoman.

In high school I was more concerned with freeing the caged lesbian. Believing the myth, I was convinced the track to true dykehood lay in sports. I was too busy writing to devote my whole attention to that ambition, but I joined the Girls' Tennis Club. Not team, because there was no one for us to play, but Club, like a buncha girls would join. It wasn't that I was enamored of the sport Billie Jean King wouldn't win her first Wimbledon until I graduated but the Tennis Club advisor made my heart beat stronger than Billie Jean's arm. Ah, the romance of it all. I remember the day it snowed on the tennis courts, and I felt hot as tropical sands as our club Advisor corrected my stance with her gentle, professional, gloved hands. I learned a lot from Miz Advisor, but not about lesbian life.

In college the P.E. majors were totally superb, playing rough at field hockey, gliding around campus with the enormous confidence of women who used their bodies for something other than attracting men. The occasional cast or crutch gave a heroic halo to these minor deities. How I wanted to be one of them!

Retail food was the closest I ever came to realizing my jock ambitions. I caught freight off the semi, stacked it on a dolly and dumped it in the aisles. I sliced cartons, stocked shelves and tore down boxes. I stacked crates of milk in the cooler. I rotated ice cream in the walk-in freezer till my fingers froze. On my feet all day, I learned teamwork with co-workers, squeezed side by side behind the deli case. This was my all-time favorite job, though without the physical training provided to most boys, my body wasn't prepared for the proud punishment it underwent.

(Continued on page 5)

Notre Dame Basketball

December 1, Butler	7 PM
11, Michigan St.	2 PM
27, USC	7PM
29, Valparaiso	7PM
January 2, Marquette	1PM
5, W. Virginia	7PM



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Notre Dame Volleyball

November 3, Illinois State	7 PM
6, Syracuse	1 PM



Cathy Lambert, M.S.W., L.C.S.W.

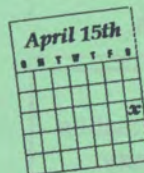
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Open Arms will run your ad for 2-3 months. You can resubmit or cancel at any time.

Open Arms reserves the right to edit for length and/or content any letters submitted for publication.

Send your ad to: The Court of Friends, P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, In. 46546 You will be assigned an ID number.

Your letter and ID number will be published in the next issue. Those wishing to respond to a published single, may do so by enclosing their reply in a **stamped, sealed envelope with the ID number written in PENCIL on the front of the envelope.**

Place your reply into another envelope and mail to: The Court of Friends. Your reply will then be addressed to the corresponding single and mailed.

#88.....Hi. This 33 year old s-s/d has many interests. Bowling, music, movies, quiet times, family times walks and talks just to name a few. Always open to new ideas. In search of single female with similar interests for friendship/possible relationship. Kids ok. If interested, please drop me a line. I'm looking forward to hearing from you. Sorry, no e-mail.

#89.....Hi, I'm looking to meet new people. I'm 49 and basically fem. I like crocheting, gardening, puzzles, sun-rises, candle-lit dinners and good companionship

#90.....Hi single, white woman would like to meet someone first as a friend, possibly to lead into a more involved relationship later. I enjoy walking, bike riding, listening to the radio and watching movies. I don't have e-mail but would like to call and talk to you and get to know each other better.

#91....Hi, I'm a 45 year-old, white female, 5'8", 160 pounds, gray hair, brown eyes, nice looking, who enjoys trust, honesty, friendship, communication, rock music, partying, festivals and quiet times too. Drop me a line, I can never have too many friends.

#92....Hi, 36 year old white female, honest, passionate, and very sincere. I enjoy movies, fun times out or quiet times at home. I am looking for femme/soft butch to share these interests and possibly more. Please, no Bi's or head games, just open/honest.

treat's street 9957



**Open your arms to change,
but don't let go of your values.**

OPEN ARMS MISSION STATEMENT

Open Arms exists to disseminate diverse information of interest to the Michiana lesbian community.

Open Arms is mailed monthly in a security envelope with a PO Box return address only.

Our mailing list is kept confidential and never shared with other publications or special interest groups.

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PLEASE DIRECT ALL ADVERTISING INQUIRIES TO P.O. BOX 845, MISHAWAKA, IN. 46546

(Continued from page 3) LEE LYNCH

Straight and gay, after work the women of the store crew piled into someone's VW and went to a softball game. We found sustenance in pitcher Joanie Joyce, a softball legend. She was a walking, talking pitching machine. Her thighs were pure short-stretching muscle. She could hit a softball out of Raybestos Park. Walking off the field near her I felt like a toothpick about to faint away. I'd work twice as hard at the store the next day, dreaming of her power.

In creaky middle age I find myself surrounded by couch athletes. Ex-jocks, wannabe jocks, women who always pitched like girls, slouch before TVs to watch The Liberty and The Comets, or soccer champs tearing off their shirts and tennis players coming out. We've come full circle since the days when girls' sports consisted of watching, not playing. It's becoming more and more obvious that not all jocks are dykes and that an awful lot of women, gay or not, are jocks at heart.

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president@justiceinc.org with questions.

To apply: send a cover letter, resume and contact information with 3 references to Wally Paynter, Justice President, P.O. Box 2387, Indianapolis, IN 46206



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Margaret Mead

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To learn more about New Moon, visit www.newmoon.org or write: New Moon Publishing, P.O. Box 3587, Duluth, MN 55803-9908



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Book Review

TALK SHOW,



by Melissa Hartman; New Victoria 1999, \$10.95

Talk Show is one of the most intelligent novels to come out of the lesbian community yet. Author Melissa Hartman has set her tale in the glamorous pressure cooker called a talk show studio and studded her character list with rock stars, TV celebrities and a young woman, Anita, who's grown up in the midst of all this. Anita (Nita) Wilde is the dyke daughter of a music chart-topping drug addict who dished out emotional abuse to Nita as often as she did love.

The new college graduate has agreed to participate in a series of talk shows about her famous mother to be produced by Talk Show TV star Jane Wilde, who is both her lesbian aunt and mom Gina's sister. In the process of working on the show Nita's plunged into an emotional stew of unresolved relationships and twenty-something self-discovery that is agonizingly real. Readers will either remember and feel validated, or will identify and feel less isolated.

It's the mark of a serious author that Hartman has been willing to lay her guts on the line in this book. No one could have written it without having experienced at least a touch of the pain. Nita's mom was not only an addict, but a suspected suicide. Talk about abandonment issues!

In the midst of all this Nita's trying to have a relationship with an older lover and with a new one. She's terribly honest and terribly raw and sometimes, when it counts, wise enough to be terribly humble.

If Nita is a character who will be remembered for her truths and ability to survive, the Hollywood setting will be remembered as a character in its own. Hartman's descriptions of southern California would do Raymond Chandler and Ross McDonald proud. Rather than capitalizing on the glamour of the geography, she writes of a city unrefined, in all its overcast, overcrowded and overwhelming moods. It's a lot like Nita's life.

Although she's a product of the privileged side of L.A., the reader doesn't hold this against Nita, nor is the glimpse of glitz distracting. Nita's just another dyke grappling with the issues we all do, in a city, a family and a het world not of her own making.

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WELLNESS CORNER

By Susan Myers, R.N., LCSW, CHTP

With all the negativity in the world today, I thought it would be nice to be reminded about the power of love and the positive ways which love transforms.....

OPENING UP TO LOVE

The key to love is understanding....
the ability to comprehend
not only the spoken word,
but those unspoken gestures,
the little things that say
so much by themselves.

The key to love is forgiveness....
to accept each other's faults
and pardon mistakes,
without forgetting
but with remembering
what you learn from them.

The key to love is trust....
through dark doubts
lay in hallowed thoughts,
it must shine brightly on
with reassuring radiance
that suppresses fear with faith.

The key to love is sharing...
facing your good fortunes
as well as the bad, together;
both conquering problems
forever searching for ways
to intensify your happiness...

The key to love is giving...
without thought of return,
but with the hope of just a simple smile
and by giving in, but never up.

The key to love is respect....
realizing that you are two separate people
with different ideas,
that you don't belong to each other,
but that you belong with each other
and share a mutual bond.

The key to love is inside us all....
it takes time and patience to unpack all the ingredients
that will take you to its threshold,
it is a continual learning process
that demands a lot of work....
but the rewards are more than worth the effort.....

Love is the key to harmony

Robert M. Millay

SNAPDRAGON ALLEY

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Kim and I are independent distributors of a wonderful line of all natural, herbal weight loss products, vitamins, dietary supplements, concentration aids, ect. We approached this venture with much skepticism; but much to our surprise and delight, we quickly overcame that. In the short time that we have utilized the products ourselves—we feel much more energetic and have each lost 30+ pounds. We are firm believers in the quality and efficiency of this line of products and would like to help you become a believer too! So, if you need to lose a few pounds but hate to diet, want to feel more energetic, or want to increase your ability to focus and concentrate —**CALL US —WE CAN HELP!**

MORE INSTRUCTIONS FOR LIFE

- *Say "bless you" when you hear someone sneeze.
- *When you lose, don't lose the lesson.
- *Don't let a little dispute injure a great friendship.
- *When you realize you've made a mistake, take immediate steps to correct it.
- *Smile when picking up the phone. The caller will hear it in your voice.
- *Spend some time alone.
- *Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
- *Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll get to enjoy it a second time.
- *Trust in God but lock your car.
- *A loving atmosphere in your home is so important. Do all you can to create a tranquil, harmonious home.
- *In disagreements with loved ones, deal with the current situation. Don't bring up the past.
- *Read between the lines. But not too much
- *Be gentle with the earth.
- *Pray. There's immeasurable power in it.
- *Never interrupt when you are being flattered.
- *Mind your own business.
- *Once a year, go someplace you've never been before.
- *Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a stroke of luck.
- *Learn the rules then break some.
- *Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it.
- *Remember that your character is your destiny.
- *Approach love and cooking with reckless abandon.

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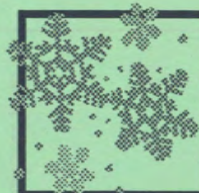
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- 2, Christina O.
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- 4, Lois W.
- 5, Jackie N.
- 6, Julie K.
- 12, Kelly
- 13, Tonya L.
- 19, Christine L., Lisa H.
- 27, Carol S.
- 30, Mick
- 31, Andrea N.

SPECIAL DATES

- 1, WORLD AIDS DAY
- 4, Hanukkah Begins
- 11, Hanukkah Ends
- 22, Winter Begins
- 25, Christmas
- 26, Boxer Day (Canada)
- 31, New Year's Eve



December 1999

Seasons
Greetings 

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
 5	 6	7	8	9	10	11
 12	 13	14	15	16	17	18
 19	20	21	22	23	24	 25
 26	 27	28	29	 30	 31	HAPPY NEW YEAR